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September 21, 2001

TO: Internal File

THRU: James D. Smith, Team Lead *JDS*

FROM: Wayne H. Western, Senior Reclamation Specialist *W4W*

RE: Ballpark Topsoil Pile, CO-OP Mining, Bear Canyon Mine, AM01A-1

SUMMARY:

On August 8, 2001, the Division received amendment AM01A-1 for the Bear Canyon Mine. The amendment is to clarify that the topsoil now stored in the ballpark is not needed for reclamation. The engineering issues were covered in revised cut and fill calculations as shown in Appendix 3L, updated reclamation maps and cross sections and revised reclamation cost estimates. A summary of topsoil availability is summarized in Chapter 8. In addition, the Permittee proposes to construct a ditch to prevent water from the undisturbed area above the ballpark from flowing across the ballpark, which is a disturbed area.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

RECLAMATION PLAN

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RECLAMATION OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-323, -301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731.

Analysis:

Reclamation backfilling and grading maps

Plate 3-2 and Plate 8-5 show the proposed reclamation contours and the cross sections listed on the plates are shown in Appendix 3-L. The Division reviewed the plates and cross sections and found that they are not consistent. For example:

TECHNICAL MEMO

- Plate 8-5C shows the distance between the disturbed area boundaries to be 58 feet, while the distance between the disturbed area boundaries on cross section TS-6 0+00 is 75 feet.
- Plate 8-5C shows the distance between the disturbed area boundaries to be 25 feet at station TS-6 1+00, the distance shown on cross section TS-6 1+00 is 44 feet.
- Elevation shown on some of the cross sections is not consistent with those shown on the plate.

A professional engineer as required by R645-301-512.130 did not certify the cross section in Appendix 3-L. Some copies of the plate that were submitted, for example Plate 8-5C, not certified as required by R645-301-512.130.

Without accurate maps and cross sections the Division is unable to review backfilling and grading, the approximate original contour requirements and the reclamation cost estimate.

Findings:

Information provided in the proposed amendment is not considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section. Prior to approval, the permittee must provide the following in accordance with:

R645-542.300 Correct the inconsistency between Plate 8-5 and Appendix 3-L with regard to the disturbed area boundary and have the cross-sections in Appendix 3-L and correct the discrepancies between the elevations shown on the cross sections and plates.

R645-301-512.120 and R645-301-542.300 have the cross-sections in Appendix 3-L certified by a registered, professional engineer or land surveyor and make sure that all copies of the plates are also certified.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Division should deny amendment AM01A for the Bear Canyon Mine, until all the deficiencies are satisfied.